

# Rhode Island Local Emergency Planning Committee #2 City of Providence

C/o Providence Emergency Management Agency  
& Office of Homeland Security  
591 Charles Street  
Providence, RI 02904  
(401) 228-8000

## Meeting Minutes of 10 March 2015

(Submitted by Craig H. Kampmier, Secretary)

**ATTENDEES:** ( • = present)

| Member Organization                                       | Representative                |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Aramark   | Robin Guevarez                |
| • Brown University  | • Henry Huppert               |
|   | Stephen Morin                 |
| City of Providence, Planning & Development                | Dave Everett                  |
| City of Providence, Department of Inspections & Standards | Peter D. Carnevale            |
| Community Group Representative                            | Vacant                        |
| • Contech Medical   | • Collin Guibeau              |
|   | Paul Lachance                 |
| • Dominion Energy   | • Chris O'Connell             |
| Enterprise Products                                       | Gary Waldron                  |
| Exxon Mobil   | John S. Andrade               |
| Ferguson Perforating                                      | Bob Audette                   |
|   | Bill Ostigay                  |
| Holcim US   | Barry Nugent                  |
|   | Scott Smith                   |
| Hudson  | Joe Murphy                    |
| • Johnson & Wales University                              | • Chris Harwood               |
|   | • Susan Mayo                  |
|   | • Richard Moore               |
| Lehigh Cement   | Jeffrey Halliday              |
| Lifespan / RI Hospital, The Miriam Hospital               | Peter Ginaitt                 |
| Mahr Federal, Inc.  | Thomas Armstrong              |
|   | Carol Gaboriault              |
| Meeting Street School                                     | Jim Butterworth               |
| Miriam Hospital   | Kenneth M <sup>c</sup> Parlin |
| • Narragansett Bay Commission                             | • Dave Aucoin                 |
|   | Kerry Britt                   |
|   | • NaHon Dean                  |
| National Grid   | Brendan Cunha                 |
| Providence & Worcester Railroad                           | Steve Buckless                |
|   | Andrew Zompa                  |
| • Providence Emergency Management Agency                  | • Vladimir Ibarra             |
|   | • Michael Previty             |

# Rhode Island

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|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| • Providence Fire Department  | • Jeffrey Varone     |
| Providence Port   | Steve Curtis         |
| RI Attorney General   | Christian F. Capizzo |
| • RIBI Security   | • Bob Johnson        |
|   | Carl Santilli        |
|   | Kevin Laiter         |
| • RI Committee on Occupational Safety & Health (RICOSH)                     | • Jim Celenza        |
| RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM)                             | Jill Eastman         |
| RI Department of Health (DoH)   | David Balbi          |
| RI Department of Labor & Training (DLT)                                     | James Larisa         |
| • RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) & Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)  | • Craig H. Kampmier  |
| RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)                                      | Paul D'Abbraccio     |
| • RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)                                       | Jamie Pereira        |
|   | • Michael Vignale    |
| • RI School of Design (RISD)  | • Alan Cantara       |
|   | • Jennifer Howley    |
| • Roger Williams Medical Center, St. Joseph's / CharterCARE Health Partners | • Scott Atkins       |
|   | Gina Gilmore         |
| • Save the Bay  | • Michael Russo      |
| Seebald & Associates  | Ray Seebald          |
| Sims Metal Management   | Michael Weiderman    |
|   | Scott Jacobs         |
| Univar USA  | Mike Duchesne        |
|   | Mitch Stevens        |
|   | Brian Strayer        |
|   | Michael Turbitt      |
| • U.S. Coast Guard  | Keith T. Hanley      |
|   | John T. Kondratowicz |
|   | Erin G. Lambie       |
|   | • Joanna L. Moran    |
|   | Joshua I. Nix        |
|   | Peter A. Popko       |
|   | • Nick Prucks        |
|   | Matt Massey          |
|   | Peter Freese         |

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|   |  |   |                |
|---|--|---|----------------|
|   | U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration |   |                |
|   | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1                    |   | Jim Gaffey     |
|   | Women & Infants Hospital   |   | Matt Griswold  |
|   | Rentsys  |   | Sandy Ruzanski |
| • | The Response Group   | • | Fellicia Balbi |
|   | Member(s) of the Public  |   |                |
|   |  |   |                |

- Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairperson Jeffrey Varone, Battalion Chief, Providence Fire Department, in the training room of Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), 591 Charles St, Providence, RI 02904.
- Minutes from the 10 December 2014 meeting were distributed and reviewed by members, followed by a motion, second, and vote for their approval.
- Appreciation was expressed to our host, noting a tour of the building will be provided at the close of business.
- Self-introductions were made by attendees for the benefit of those new to the meeting.

## Correspondence/Handouts:

- Vice Chairperson Susan Mayo provided a handout of information sent to her from the U.S. Coast Guard with cyber security websites provided by Michael Leking, DHS Cyber Security Advisor for Region 1.
- Vice Chairperson Susan Mayo provided a handout of information sent to her from Jim Celenza, RI Committee on Occupational Safety & Health (RICOSH), regarding a program on Combustible Dusts to be presented by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Tuesday 21 April from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the Occupational & Environmental Health Center, 410 South Main Street, Providence.

## Reports

### *City of Providence:*

Communications:

No Report

Emergency Management Agency (PEMA): *Vladimir Ibarra*

- NEW Staff Changes at PEMA
  - Director Michael Borg

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- Deputy Director Vladimir Ibarra
- Preparedness Coordinator Michael Previty
- Recovery Coordinator (Vacant)
- EOC Functional Exercise March 18, 2015
  - Scenario: Major Earthquake has struck the area, and ESF staff have been activated for the second operational period.
  - The exercise is in coordination with FEMA, RIEMA, MA, NH, RI, City of Boston, City of Providence
- Commodities Point of Distribution Full Scale Exercise May 14, 2015
  - PEMA, along with FEMA and RIEMA, will stand up a CPOD location and drop site on Niantic Ave. This exercise will test the newly development PEMA CPOD Plan
- There will be a statewide shelter communication exercise being coordinated by Portsmouth, RI on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The RACES ~~armature~~ amateur Radio Team will be attending.

Providence Fire Department: *Battalion Chief Jeffrey Varone (LEPC #2 Chairperson)*

- Tier II Reporting: Should have approximately 600 reports; currently reviewing the 123 reports received; and the submission deadline was last week. Many of the answers are not addressing the questions and are incomplete; for example, containment information is there, but does not completely describe what is needed.
- Incidents include an explosion in a house on Woodbury Street in which a gas line leak in the street followed a utility into the house providing a high percent (%) in the building; the detectable odorant methyl mercaptan (mercaptan) leached out in the soil; a gas leak at Rhode Island College (RIC) that had a high concentration (%) in the air; and a Freon leak at the RI Blood Center.
- Ongoing training.
- Hoping to obtain remote monitoring capability for chlorine and radiation, and to have it in time for the June Port of Providence Exercise (PORTEX '15).

Inspections & Standards:  
Mayor's Press Office:  
Planning & Development:  
Police Department:

No Report.  
No Report.  
No Report.  
No Report.

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|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Public Property:    | No Report. |
| Public Schools:     | No Report. |
| Public Works:       | No Report. |
| Solicitor's Office: | No Report. |
| Tax Assessor:       | No Report. |

***State of Rhode Island:***

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Department of Environmental Management (DEM): | No Report. |
| Department of Health (DoH):                   | No Report. |

Department of Labor and Training (DLT):

- James Larisa has retired; as a single person department, there is no one to answer Tier II report questions at this time.

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA): | No Report. |
|--------------------------------------|------------|

RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA): *Michael Vignale*

- No Report.
- Chairperson Jeffrey Varone noted that RIPTA buses were used to keep people warm last night at the Kinsley Avenue industrial building fire.
- Chairperson Varone asked about the Amb-bus. Fellicia Balbi, who previously worked at PEMA answered that Providence has two (2) Amb-bus conversion kits, and require 6 – 8 hours to set up.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC): *Jeffrey Varone, LEPC #2*  
*Chairperson*

- The new RIEMA director is referencing a 2007 Governor's directive that limits an LEPC's voice in SERC operations; an LEPC will not have a vote in how things are done.
- Chairperson of the SERC Training Committee has resigned.

***Federal Government:***

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Health Administration (OSHA):                       | No Report |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):         | No Report |
| U.S. Coast Guard - Sector Southeastern New England: | No Report |

***Colleges/Universities:***

Brown University: *Henry Huppert*

- A tabletop exercise (TTX) was conducted in January involving an off-campus residential fire. The non-campus house fatal fire was occupied by a Brown University student and a Rhode Island School of Design student during the Friday or Saturday night incident. The Rhode Island State Medical Examiner contributed information for the benefit of participants' knowledge and understanding of roles and responsibilities. Discussion indicated the depth of interaction between Brown and RISD in the complexities of this TTX scenario. Susan Mayo, Johnson & Wales University, noted the scenario's representative power of social media relative to people standing around outside of the incident; students seeing who is there and who is not there with conclusions being drawn and shared, yet someone not accounted for by observing students was away for the weekend and was not mutually known, and so goes social media.
- The quarterly siren test will be conducted in April.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI): | No Report |
|---|-----------|

Johnson & Wales University (JWU): *Richard Moore and Christopher Harwood*

- An electric feeder line was lost this past Friday. Through the use of portable generators, people were able to remain and not evacuate.
- Tier II Report was submitted.
- JWU will conduct a health-related scenario tabletop exercise on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The university will be testing its siren on the Harborside Campus off Allens Ave.
- What is the status of the Alertus box (chemical detectors in the Port of Providence)? (Maintenance contract with Raytheon)

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Providence College (PC):    | No Report |
| Rhode Island College (RIC): | No Report |

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Rhode Island School of Design (RISD): *Jennifer Howley & Alan Cantara*

- Jennifer reported an infectious disease exercise will be conducted on a date yet to be determined.
- Alan indicated 09 June will be Safety Day with a variety of training and education offerings, e.g. ergonomics; first-aid; fire extinguishers; ladders; preventing slips, trips and falls.

University of Rhode Island (URI):

No Report

***Hospitals:***

Butler Hospital:

No Report

Hasbro Children's Hospital:

+

Providence VA Medical Center:

No Report

Rhode Island Hospital:

No Report.

Roger Williams Medical Center: *Scott Atkin*

- Reporting on CharterCARE's Providence health care organizations / facilities, Scott indicated they are still working on the SPCC plan, and that they will conduct a chemical exercise, maybe radiation, before the end of the year.

The Miriam Hospital:

+

Women & Infants Hospital:

No Report.

***Non-Governmental Organizations:***

Red Cross / Visiting Nurse Association (VNA):

No Report.

RI Committee on Occupational Safety & Health (RICOSH): *Jim Celenza*

- "Danger: Combustible Dusts" will be presented by RICOSH and the Providence U.S. DOL OSHA office on Tuesday 21 April, 2:30-5:00 p.m., at the Occupational & Environmental Health Center, 410 South Main Street, Providence. FREE. NO CHARGE, but please register at 401.751.2015 / [jascelenza@gmail.com](mailto:jascelenza@gmail.com). (see end of minutes)
- EPA and OSHA are working together on a targeted focus of dust explosions consequential to the number of explosions in recent years, including the 2013 incident at an East Providence wood pellet factory.

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## ***Industry:***

### **Facility Representatives / Owners:**

- Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC): *Dave Aucoin*

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

- A few NBC staff members attended the full-day Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CIKR) Awareness training that was offered by RIEMA on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The course was taught by instructors from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).
- NBC's Tier II Report was electronically submitted to the state Dept. of Labor & Training, PFD and EPFD on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- NBC's Pretreatment Section participated in the MOTIVA TTX that was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- NBC's Health & Safety Program met with members from PFD's Special Hazards unit on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss confined space rescue capabilities for NBC field personnel. NBC's Servicing District is comprised on 10 cities and towns, and NBC will be working closely with the PFD to make the remote areas of the District more familiar to the PFD. A confined space rescue drill with the PFD will also be planned at the Field's Point WWTF for this summer.
- NBC is a member of the RI Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (RIWARN). RIWARN is a mutual aid agreement for equipment and man power among public and private water and wastewater utilities within RI. RIWARN currently consists of 17 utility members, and 4 Associate Members. The Associate Members are RIDEM, RIDOH, RIEMA, and the Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Agency (ASRWWA). RIWARN was recently 1 of 5 WARNs throughout the country to receive approval for a free, full-day Emergency Response TTX through EPA. This will be held at NBC's Corporate Office Building in late spring/early summer, and will be based on a catastrophic scenario beneath Rt. 95 that affects the water sector, as well as other key infrastructure sectors. RIWARN will provided state and local emergency response partners will more details as the final date for the TTX approaches.

### **OSHA Health & Safety Training:**

- Safety training is on-going. In recent months, all applicable staff have received refresher training in Powered Industrial Trucks, Lockout/Tagout Classroom and Field Evaluation, and Confined Space Field Training.



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Providence Harbor Co-op:

No report.

**Old Business:**

- Website. Tabled for the time being. The person maintaining Brown University's website for us has left Brown. No further action or update on the state website projected two (2) years ago.

**New Business**

- LEPC 2 elections are held every two (2) years. Vice Chairperson Susan Mayo spoke to attendees with the perspective that some of them may have been participating in the LEPC for years, or simply have a desire to contribute to the process and objective. She indicated they may wish to give consideration to the election in September for chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary.
- Anyone interested in participating on the Planning Committee for June's Port of Providence Exercise [PORTEX '15], please leave your name on the sign-up list on the table. The meeting will be held Tuesday 7 April; information will be emailed.
- We are required to rehearse the Emergency Operations Plan for the Port of Providence annually. Typically this is done in June. The PERVIS telephone notification test will be conducted on Tuesday 19 May. PORTEX '15 will be conducted on Tuesday 02 June. The Hot Wash will be conducted at our LEPC meeting the following week on Tuesday 09 June at the Providence Public Safety Building on Washington Street.
- The Chair acknowledged open meeting law requirements with a reminder that LEPC minutes are required to be posted on the RI Secretary of States website within 45 days.
- Jim Celenza noted that emergency response needs to be a part of planning for the future baseball stadium (Pawtucket Red Sox).

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

The next LEPC 2 Quarterly Meeting will be held on TUESDAY 9 June 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the first floor auditorium of the Providence Public Safety Complex, 325 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903.

*Entering the parking garage, please tell the attendant you are attending the LEPC meeting; do not take a parking stub.*

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## ***Danger: Combustible Dusts***

*Presented by RI Committee on Occupational Safety and Health and Providence Office US. Occupational Safety and Health Administration as part of April Workers Memorial Commemorations*

- ***Tues April 21***
- ***2:30-5pm***
- ***Occupational & Environmental Health Center, 410 S Main St-Providence***

*At the Hoeganaes metal powder plant in Gallatin, Tenn., three serious combustible metal dust accidents occurred in 2011, killing five workers. Chris Sherburne, whose husband, Wiley, worked as an electrician at the facility told of his fears as he walked through the plant on quieter nights, hearing the echo from sparking electricity as iron dust seeped into electrical boxes and ignited. Ms. Sherburne will never see her husband again. On Jan. 31, 2011, as he tried to restart a jammed powder conveyor, he was enveloped in a fiery metal dust cloud that burned more than 95 percent of his body. He died a few days later.*

Combustible dusts are fine particles that present an explosion hazard when suspended in air under certain conditions. Industries facing this type of danger include those that process food, wood, rubber, plastics and pharmaceuticals, when product forms as tiny particles and dust. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) identified 281 combustible dust incidents between 1980 and 2005 that led to the deaths of 119 workers, injured 718, and extensively damaged numerous industrial facilities. In East Providence in 2013 a combustible wood dust explosion and fire occurred at Inferno Wood Pellet Inc., injuring a worker and partially demolishing the building.

Dust explosions are readily preventable with appropriate dust collection and suppression controls, ventilation, training and designated fire and explosion detection and suppression efforts and preparations. Voluntary industry-supported national fire codes have urged such measures for decades,

Program conducted by Fred Malaby. Mr Malaby was an Industrial Hygienist in OSHA's Boston Regional Office for 31 years and worked for OSHA for over 39 years. Mr. Malaby is a Certified Industrial Hygienist by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene and a Certified Safety Professional by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

*Program is free but must pre- register at-*

**RI Committee on Occupational Safety and Health**  
**741 Westminster st Prov RI 02903**  
**401-751-2015 / jascelenza@gmail.com**